

the new century has been a year of record setting in a wide range of categories, all highlighting the steadily improving relationship between two of the world's great democracies.

On September 14, 2000, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee became the first, and only, foreign Head of Government to be invited to address a Joint Meeting of Congress in the 106th Congress. The fact that this unique invitation was extended to Prime Minister Vajpayee is evidence that the Congress recognizes that Indo-American ties will continue to emerge as one of our most urgent foreign policy priorities in the 21st century.

I'm proud that both Houses of Congress came together in a bipartisan manner to adopt Resolutions welcoming Prime Minister Vajpayee, and stating in strong terms the commitment on the part of the Legislative Branch to work for closer U.S.-India relations. I'm particularly encouraged that the House Resolution contained a provision urging that the U.S. Government "consider removing existing unilateral legislative and administrative measures imposed against India, which prevent the normalization of United States-India bilateral economic and trade relations."

The year 2000 witnessed the first State Visit by an American President to India in more than 20 years. This year actually marked the second time that India's Prime Minister and the United States President exchanged summit visits in the same year: President Jimmy Carter traveled to India in January of 1978, and Prime Minister Morarji Desai came to the U.S. in June of that year. With all the changes that have taken place in both nations during the past 22 years, the exchange of top-level visits between the U.S. and India was particularly momentous this year.

President Clinton's highly successful and productive visit to India in March helped to cement Indo-American relations as no other single act could have. Additionally, the joint statement that was signed by the two leaders also produced many substantive firsts. It establishes a framework for long-term, institutional cooperation in many areas, including a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, an Indo-American Financial and Economic Forum, a bilateral Commercial Dialogue, and an Indo-American Working Group on Trade. Agreements were signed on energy and environmental and scientific cooperation. Recognizing the unique similarities of both Indian and American security concerns for Asia, both countries pledged a new partnership on regional and global security issues. The Joint Indo-American Statement, which was issued during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in September, reaffirmed all of these unprecedented agreements.

These unprecedented agreements were reaffirmed, and expanded by the Joint Indo-U.S. Statement issued on September 15, during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington. Indeed, during the five short months between summits, significant progress was made. We have seen regular foreign policy consultations at the ministerial and senior policy levels. Our two countries have played a major leadership role in the launch of the Community of Democracies. In the economic arena, three ministerial-level economic dialogues and the High-Level Coordinating Group are working to improve the

bilateral trade environment, facilitate greater commercial cooperation, promote investment, and contribute to strengthening the global financial and trading systems.

In their September summit meeting, President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee welcomed the progress of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, and agreed that it would also examine linkages between terrorism and narcotics trafficking and other related issues. They noted the opening of a Legal Attaché office in New Delhi designed to facilitate cooperation in counter-terrorism and law enforcement. The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the joint consultative group on clean energy and environment met in July and agreed to revitalize and expand energy cooperation, while discussing the full range of issues relating to environment and climate change. They welcomed the establishment of the Science and Technology forum in July and agreed that the forum should reinvigorate the traditionally strong scientific cooperation between the two countries. In that connection, they noted the contribution of the two science and technology related roundtable meetings held in March and September.

The two leaders also welcomed the recent initiatives in the health sector, including the joint statements of June 2000, as examples of deepening collaboration in improving health care and combating AIDS and other major diseases of our time. They pledged their strong commitment to addressing the global challenge of the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS through the close involvement and cooperation between the governments and civil society in the two countries. They expressed support for the collaborative program for research in various areas, including HIV/AIDS vaccine development, through the Joint Working Groups of scientists envisaged by the Joint Statement of June 2000. They agreed to encourage the formation of a business council to combat HIV/AIDS with the active involvement and participation of business and industry to raise awareness in the industrial workplace.

While relations between India and the United States have generally been cordial over the past half-century, the agreements signed this year in New Delhi and Washington represents a new chapter in bilateral cooperation.

During Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to Washington, the Official Dinner hosted by President Clinton was the largest banquet at the White House during the eight years of the Clinton Presidency, with more than 700 guests in attendance. This number reflects the growing size and success of the Indian-American community, a community which finds itself at or near first place in terms of levels of education, income and professional attainment among ethnic groups in our country. The guest list also demonstrates the growing interest and support among Americans from all backgrounds of closer ties with India.

A final marker of the strong relationship that has been formed was seen with the dedication of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi across from the Indian Embassy on Washington's Embassy Row. The ceremony to dedicate the statue was led by President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee. For Americans, Gandhi's influence on the civil rights movement has a special place in our collective memory.

It is one of my most profound hopes that the relationship between the United States and India continues to deepen and expand as we move into the years to come. I have full confidence that our policies towards Asia will recognize the importance of India to our National economic and security well being.

HONORING CLIFF HARTLE ON OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mr. Cliff Hartle, President/CEO of the Gasser Foundation. Mr. Hartle is retiring this year, at the age of 85, after serving the community in this organization since its creation in 1989.

Cliff Hartle is a remarkable, dedicated and vital community member of Napa County. He graduated from Napa High School in 1933. He worked diligently for Berglund Tractor, starting part-time in high school and then working his way up the ranks until he retired as vice-president after 36 years of loyalty and dedication.

When Vernice and Peter Gassar began the Gassar Foundation for the betterment of life for the residents of Napa County, they looked to Cliff Hartle to help shape this organization. They know him as a kind, generous, intelligent and hard-working businessman. He has exceeded expectation and has been instrumental in the foundation's success. His co-workers and associates have a deep respect and love for him.

Under Cliff Hartle's leadership and guidance, The Gassar Foundation has given \$9 million to 275 recipients and 150 schools. The two main beneficiaries have been Justin Siena High School and the Queen of the Valley Hospital Foundation. However, almost all of Napa County's non-profit organizations have been supported by the generosity of the Gassar Foundation with Cliff Hartle working diligently on its behalf.

Specifically, the Gassar Foundation has been instrumental in building an Emergency Room, a new maternity wing and a media center for students. It has helped in the acquisition and preservation of Napa-Solano County Wetlands for Ducks Unlimited. The Foundation has contributed greatly to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Napa, St. Helena and American Canyon, the Napa County Homeless Shelter, the Napa Valley Symphony, the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, Little League and countless other non-profit agencies that help the homeless, disabled, and underprivileged. Cliff Hartle and the Gassar Foundation have touched the lives of thousands in our community.

Cliff Hartle has received numerous awards and recognition from non-profit agencies, including last year's Queen of the Valley Hospital's President's Crystal Clock Award.

Cliff Hartle is a dedicated family man. He and his wife, Louetta, married for 64 years, are blessed with one daughter, Patty and two grandchildren, Sean and Sara.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent Mr. Cliff Hartle as his Congressman. His distinguished service to the community has been

immense and his dedication and leadership is inspirational to all. For these reasons, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Cliff Hartle for his meritorious service to the people of Napa and Solano County, California.

**JANE BRYANT QUINN DENOUNCES
MASSIVE TAX CUTS**

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, in this Congress and on the campaign trail, Republicans are amply demonstrating that they are the party of fiscal irresponsibility. The Republican congressional leadership and the Republican presidential candidate have cynically plied the slogan "its your money" to justify massive and wreckless tax cuts, most of which would go only to the wealthiest Americans. I submit for the record a recent column by the respected financial columnist Jane Bryant Quinn, which explains why it is so important to maintain budget surpluses and resist the political appeal of massive tax cuts.

**DON'T BE TOO QUICK TO DEMAND A FEDERAL
TAX CUT**

(Jane Bryant Quinn)

So you want a big tax cut because the government surplus is ours and we should get it back?

That's nice. But remember that the government's public debt belongs to us, too.

The debt grew over many decades, for spending we liked and spending we didn't like (lefties and righties, fill in the good and evil spending of your choice). Mostly, it grew during recessions and wars.

Today, there's a consensus that the total debt should be reduced. But how can we do that and get a big tax cut, too?

I have a modest proposal. It's inspired by those who argue for privatizing more of the government's functions. I propose that we privatize the debt.

We should all get big tax cuts. But each cut should be packaged with a proportionate piece of the public debt. That's the true libertarian way.

Do I hear you say that you don't want your piece of the debt on your personal balance sheet? You're for collective responsibility after all?

In that case, I have something else to say. It's in our collective interest that the government run surpluses today, rather than opt for big tax cuts or big new spending programs. These surpluses are our principal source of new investment capital for business modernization and growth.

To raise money to invest for the future, businesses have to draw on national savings. But on average, individual Americans aren't saving a dime. We're spending everything we earn (in some months, more than we earn).

So where are the new savings coming from, for business use? From the surplus. Few people

Here's how that happens, as explained by Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert Solow, in the Oct. 5 issue of the New York Review of Books:

In years when the government spends more than it collects in taxes, it borrows the extra money it needs from the investing public (U.S. and foreign individuals and institutions).

It borrows by selling us Treasury bills and bonds. When we buy them, money shifts from the private sector to the government sector, to finance public purchasing and programs.

Lately, the government has been collecting more in taxes than it needs to cover spending. The surplus reduces the need for debt. Some of those Treasury bills and bonds are being retired or redeemed.

When that happens, the institutions that own them have to replace them with something else. Often, they switch to corporate bonds (and perhaps some equities). So the money moves out of the government's hands, back into the private sector.

Running surpluses hurts an economy in recessionary times. But in prosperous times, it's a pro-growth, pro-investment choice.

Follow along with me here because this principle becomes central to financing Social Security and Medicare when the baby boomers retire.

Reducing the federal debt today—injecting more savings into the private economy—helps businesses buy more up-to-date equipment and take advantage of technological advances.

That makes workers more productive and raises their real incomes. As a result, they'll be able to cover more of the cost of supporting the older generation.

What's more, by working down the debt, the nation will have more room to borrow the money back, in the years when the boomers are straining the federal budget the most.

So we're choosing between using up this money now (in big tax cuts, higher spending and higher personal consumption) or investing it for the future. To me, that's a no-brainer. Invest, by paying down the debt.

**NECHES RIVER SALTWATER
BARRIER**

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the groundbreaking of a very important project based in Southeast Texas, the Neches River Saltwater Barrier. This barrier is critically important in protecting over 150 billion gallons of water per year from saltwater contamination.

Saltwater threatens the freshwater intakes of lower Neches cities, industries and farms by moving upstream from the Gulf of Mexico through the deepwater channel to Beaumont. If downstream flows are insufficient, saltwater moves upriver and the lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) must take measures to protect the intakes.

As part of the Greater Houston area, the lower Neches River and Neches-Trinity Coastal Basins are characterized by moderately dense populations; a heavy petroleum and petrochemical industry; a hub of highway, rail and deep-water transportation facilities; and a major rice-producing agricultural industry. The well-being and prosperity of all of these interests are dependent on an abundant supply of freshwater.

Mr. Speaker, the Neches River Permanent Saltwater Barrier Project has become a reality. The Project, authorized by Congress in the

Water Resources Development Act of 1976, provides benefits for salinity control, water supply, navigation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and recreation. The Lower Neches Valley Authority has worked hand in hand with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, bringing the project to fruition, and I commend them both.

The waters of the Neches River are used extensively for municipal, industrial and irrigation purposes and other water supply needs. These uses require an adequate supply of high quality water. During periods of low river flow, the saltwater travels up the river and if allowed to enter water intake structures, can cause damage to crops or contaminate water meant for consumption by humans or livestock. Traditionally, during these periods of low river flow, water has been released upstream from Sam Rayburn to "flush" the saltwater entering LNVA and City of Beaumont freshwater intakes.

The new barrier will permanently replace the temporary structures and be operated such that the gates will be open 99% of the time and closed only on those occasions when the saltwater wedge makes its way up the Neches River to the project vicinity.

At this time, I'd like to commend LNVA and the Corps. The Lower Neches Valley Authority has been an unusually committed, responsible, and cooperative local sponsor. They have worked tirelessly with the Corps of Engineers and Congress over the last several years towards completion of the saltwater barrier project and are deserving of much praise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on October 18 and October 19, 2000, I was not able to vote on roll call votes No. 531–540. Had I been present, on roll call No. 531, I would have voted "yea." On roll No. 532, I would have voted "yea." On roll No. 533, I would have voted "yea." On roll No. 534, I would have voted "yea." On roll No. 535, I would have voted "yea." On roll No. 536, I would have voted "yea." On roll No. 537, I would have voted "no." On roll No. 538, I would have voted "no." On roll No. 539, I would have voted "no." On roll No. 540, I would have voted "yea."

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ILLINOIS
REPRESENTATIVE SIDNEY RICH-
ARD YATES**

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, serving a region as ethnically diverse as Illinois' Ninth Congressional District is no easy task, but it is one Representative Sidney Yates attacked with vigor, insight and dedication for close to 50